

The Town of Washington

"THE FIRST WASHINGTON OF ALL"

January 9, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Town Council Meeting

Approved Minutes

- CALL TO ORDER: Mayor John Fox Sullivan called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Council members Mary Ann Kuhn, Katharine Leggett, Patrick O'Connell, Brad Schneider and Gary Aichele were present. Council member Jerry Goebel was absent. Town Attorney John Bennett was present. Town Clerk Laura Dodd was present.

- MINUTES: October 11, 2016 minutes Ms. Kuhn gave Ms. Dodd a few typographical corrections and asked that the minutes reflect that Mr. Goebel seconded the motion to adjourn. Ms. Kuhn made a motion to approve the October 11, 2016 as corrected and Mayor Sullivan seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Sullivan welcomed Mr. Schneider to his first meeting as a Council member.

- REPORTS: Treasury Report: Mayor Sullivan reviewed the attached Bank Summary Report, the Bills-To-Be-Paid list and the Additional Bills to Be Paid List. Mr. Aichele made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Mr. O'Connell seconded and the motion passed 6-0.

Planning Commission: Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Planning Commission had met that morning to continue the Comprehensive Plan review and would be meeting again on Monday, January 16, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. and they would welcome public comments. Council discussed a request from Chairman Fred Catlin, see letter attached, for the Council to authorize \$1,500 including \$500 for a mailing to residents in the 22747 zip code to make them aware of the Comprehensive Plan process, \$500 for planning consultant Milt Herd to provide guidance in the planning process, and \$500 for other costs associated with publicizing the planning process and ensuring public input. Ms. Leggett made a motion to approve up to \$1,500 as requested by the Planning Commission and Ms. Kuhn seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schneider voted "yes"

Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"

Ms. Leggett voted "yes"

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"

Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

Architectural Review Board: Mayor Sullivan reported that there had been no applications and no meeting.

- TOWN ATTORNEY: Mr. Bennett had no report.

Mayor Sullivan discussed that a lot of work had been done on the Middle Street parking lot and that he had heard nothing but compliments on it.

Mr. O’Connell discussed that a lot of progress had been made but the best was yet to come with more tulips, plants, and trees and an increase in parking spaces.

Bob Fasce, the Inn at Little Washington’s director on business development, discussed that the paving of the street would be finished in the spring, along with moving of some telephone poles. He discussed that the renovations to the back of the Post Office building would begin in February.

• OLD BUSINESS: a). Election of the Vice Mayor: Mr. Bennett reviewed the process of nominating a vice mayor. Mr. Aichele nominated Ms. Kuhn whom he discussed as always having good judgement and that her work was meticulous. Mr. O’Connell seconded the nomination. Mayor Sullivan, Ms. Leggett, and Mr. Schneider all spoke in favor. A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schneider voted “yes” Mayor Sullivan voted “yes”

Mr. O’Connell voted “yes” Ms. Leggett voted “yes”

Ms. Kuhn voted “yes” Mr. Aichele voted “yes”

And Ms. Kuhn was elected vice mayor 6-0.

Ms. Kuhn thanked everyone and promised to do her utmost to serve well.

b). Meuse Tourist Home SU #10-01-01 Annual Review: Council discussed that this was the second annual review for Jackie Meuse’s Tourist Home SUP for use of the upstairs apartment as tourist rental. Mayor Sullivan discussed that to his knowledge there had been no complaints. Ms. Dodd discussed that neither John McCarthy’s office, while he was the Town’s zoning administrator, nor the Town office had received any complaints.

Ms. Meuse was unable to attend, and her employee, Ciera Pennington, answered questions from the Council. She discussed that the apartment was mainly rented out primarily through Airbnb.com and that their reviews from visitors had been mainly positive.

During the discussion of whether the condition of another review would be needed, Mr. Schneider discussed that the Council should consider an annual review of all B&B Special Use Permits as many people had expressed that there might be too many B&Bs and not enough residential houses in town and that it would not be a burden on the Town Council to do so.

Mr. O’Connell discussed that it was not so much that it would be a burden on the Council but that continued annual reviews of special use permits would deflated the value of every special use property and that owners needed assurance of something that had resale value. He discussed that the second review in this case, had been to test the waters on whether there might be an issue with the tourist home having no resident manager.

Mr. Aichele discussed that annual reviews on all B&B SUPs would have a chilling effect on development in general.

After a short discussion, Mr. Aichele moved that the Meuse Tourist Home be allowed to operate under its current approved SUP without the need for further annual reviews. Ms. Kuhn seconded and a roll call vote was taken”

Mr. Schneider voted “yes” Mayor Sullivan voted “yes”

Mr. O’Connell voted “yes” Ms. Leggett voted “yes”

Ms. Kuhn voted “yes” Mr. Aichele voted “yes”

And the motion passed 6-0.

- NEW BUSINESS: ESS Contract Renewal: Mayor Sullivan discussed that the Town had received a new contract from ESS to operate the Waterworks and Wastewater Plants, which were available to the public. He discussed that the contract cost was a few percentage points higher than last year's and that he, Ms. Dodd, and Mr. Schneider would be meeting with Don Hearl to review the contract and to review what issues the Town was facing and to set priorities.

There was a short discussion, where Mr. Aichele expressed his concerns with the Town continually getting hit with maintenance costs. Mr. Schneider discussed that he would be meeting with Mr. Hearl and that he would try and set up a long term maintenance program.

- PUBLIC FORUM: Mayor Sullivan opened the Public Forum:

Sharone Proper expressed her concerns about the Comprehensive Plan review and what was being sent out to the public

Gail Swift discussed that notes from Mr. Herd on public forum held on the Comprehensive Plan were being sent out to the 22747 zip code and that a public hearing would be held on the Comprehensive Plan before it was adopted by the Council.

Thom Pellikaan asked if the renovated Post Office Building, since he was being leased as a Federal building, would have a flag.

Mr. O'Connell said yes it would on the side of the building.

Mr. Pellikaan asked if the new vice mayor required being sworn in.

Mr. Bennett discussed that Ms. Kuhn had been sworn in when she had been elected to office and required no further swearing in.

Mr. Sullivan reminded the public of the upcoming Martin Luther King event at the Theatre on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. no charge.

Mr. Aichele encouraged people to come as it was remarkable program.

Mayor Sullivan closed the Public Forum

- CLOSED SESSION: At 8:15 p.m. Mayor Sullivan made a motion to go into closed session in accordance with the provisions of Section 2.2-3711.A.5 for consultation with the Town Attorney in regard to a matter requiring the provision of legal advice namely the sale of Parcel 3, 0.5853 acres of the Avon Hall property and in accordance with Section 2.2-3711.A.3 for a discussion and consideration of a sale or possible sale of Parcel 3, 0.5853 acres of the Avon Hall property where a discussion in open session would adversely affect the negotiation strategy of the Town. Mr. Schneider seconded and a roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Schneider voted "yes"

Mayor Sullivan voted "yes"

Mr. O'Connell voted "yes"

Ms. Leggett voted "yes"

Ms. Kuhn voted "yes"

Mr. Aichele voted "yes"

And the motion passed 6-0.

- OPEN SESSION: Mayor Sullivan reconvened the public session at 9:07 p.m. and Mr. Bennett asked each member to certify that to the best of their knowledge:

Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meetings requirements under the Code of Virginia and only, such public business matters as identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered by the Town Council:

Mr. Aichele voted “yes”
Ms. Leggett voted “yes”
Mayor Sullivan voted “yes”

Ms. Kuhn voted “yes”
Mr. O’Connell voted “yes”
Mr. Schneider voted “yes”

- ADJOURNMENT: At 9:10 p.m. Ms. Kuhn moved to adjourn and Mayor seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT SCHEDULED COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Dodd

Attachments:

Treasurer’s report
Additional Bills to be Paid
Bills to be Paid
Letter from Fred Catlin